

## British American Presbyterian,

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FOR TERMS, ETC., SEE EIGHTH PAGE.

C. BLACKBURN ROBINSON,  
Editor and Proprietor.

### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Letters and articles intended for the next issue should be in the hands of the Editor not later than Tuesday morning.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, otherwise they will not be inserted.

Articles not accepted will be returned, if, at the time they are sent, a request is made to that effect, and sufficient postage stamps are enclosed. Manuscripts not so accompanied will not be preserved, and subsequent requests for their return cannot be complied with.

## British American Presbyterian.

FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 1876.

At the recent meeting of the Synod of the Church of Scotland, in Canada, the Rev. David Watson, M.A., of Thorah, was unanimously elected Moderator.

REV. MR. GLENDENNING, for the past eighteen months a missionary in Manitoba, arrived in Woodstock on the 10th, having been compelled, by ill-health, to resign his charge.

We regret to learn that the Rev. K. J. Grant, missionary from Trinidad, has been compelled, through ill-health, to discontinue addressing meetings in Ontario, and to return to Nova Scotia.

COMMODORE VANDERBILT, of Railroad fame, has given \$300,000 more to the University in Tennessee which bears his name. The whole amount given by Mr. Vanderbilt to this institution is a round million of dollars.

EVEN the members of Plymouth Church are not satisfied with their pastor's position. A committee of five was appointed on the 26th inst. at a Congregational meeting to examine into all the facts, allegations, and reports concerning the character and integrity of Mr. Beecher.

The degree of D.D. has been conferred on the Rev. J. G. Robb, B.A., minister of Cook's Church, in this city, by the Hanover Institute, Illinois. This Theological Seminary is an old and much respected institution connected with the Old School Presbyterians.

The Rev. D. J. Macdonnell and wife sailed from New York for Europe, last Saturday. His many friends will unite with us in wishing himself and partner a pleasant voyage and a happy return to Canada. At the Congregational prayer meeting, prior to his leaving the city, the rev. gentleman was presented with a purse containing \$100 sterling.

The Rev. Prof. McLaren preached the anniversary sermon in the Presbyterian Church, Dresden, last Sabbath. The church was crowded on the occasion. In this connection the Dresden Times remarks:—"We are certainly indebted to the Presbyterians for the able preachers we have had the opportunity of hearing in our village since they planted their standard in our midst nearly three years ago, as on all special occasions they have secured the highest talent."

Our readers will be interested in knowing that the suit brought by the Rev. Gavin Lang, of Montreal, for the purpose of retaining the Temporalities Fund in the hands of the anti-unionist section of the late Presbyterian Church in Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, has so far been terminated. The case was tried some time ago before Mr. Justice Beaudry, who decided that the allegations on which the claim was based were entirely insufficient, and now the Court of Appeals for the Province of Quebec has sustained the finding of the lower Court and dismissed the appeal.

The Banner of last week says:—"On Sabbath last Rev. Mr. Laing delivered a sermon designed to inculcate the lessons to be deduced from the death of the Rev. John McColl, who for a period of six years before his removal to Hamilton had been pastor of Knox Church in Dundas. The text chosen was the concluding words of Heb. xi. 4—"He being dead, yet speaketh." The discourse was eminently practical, and so impressively tender in its allusions to the deceased, that the 'river' of the eye 'welled forth' in responsive sympathy with the speaker in many a pew. Many of those present were the personal friends of Mr. McColl, and it is not to be wondered at that the vivid portrayal of his sufferings, and his early removal by death from a field in which his labors were so highly appreciated, his removal from wife and family and friends, should have stirred the best feelings of the audience. When Mr. McColl accepted the pastoral charges in Hamilton, Knox Church in this place parted from him with regret; they had come to know and like him, and his many friends in Dundas now earnestly join in the sorrow so deeply felt in Hamilton at his death, and sympathize with his afflicted wife and family in their great bereavement."

### RETROSPECTIVE.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada was brought to a close on Friday evening about seven o'clock. There were present certainly not more than a quorum, and it is doubtful whether there was even one stranger in the gallery. Principal Caven having been asked to lead in prayer, returned thanks to God for the spirit of harmony which had prevailed during the entire proceedings, and implored the divine blessing upon the work of the Church, and upon all her congregations.

Rev. Dr. Topp briefly addressed the Assembly, and thereafter the time-honored Psalm "Pray that Jerusalem may have peace and felicity," with which General Assemblies are generally closed, was sung. The Moderator then declared the Assembly dissolved, and appointed the next General Assembly to be held in Halifax on second Wednesday of June, 1877.

In reviewing the proceedings of the Supreme Court, everyone must be impressed with the extraordinary interest which was excited in the community by the Macdonnell case, as it is called, and as it will be known in the future. The vital importance of the doctrine of Eternal Punishment was sufficient warrant for occupying so much time with a discussion which, as we said last week, was remarkable for its ability and far-reaching in its consequences. It is seldom that Church Courts have to deal with questions touching doctrine, and perhaps the less frequently they have to do so the better. But it is satisfactory to think that the General Assembly gave so much time to the consideration of Mr. Macdonnell's case, as it thereby showed clearly the doctrinal basis upon which it rested, thus emphatically endorsing the Confession of Faith before the world; while at the same time determined to do everything consistent with honor to preserve the Rev. Mr. Macdonnell to the ministry of the Church.

The only regret we have connected with this matter, is that it proved so absorbing in interest as almost to overshadow and belittle everything else. It was sufficient for the public even to have an "inkling" that the Macdonnell case was coming on, and then aisles and galleries were crowded with expectant listeners. On the other hand, when the "case" was off, the members in attendance sadly fell away. For ourselves, we so regretted that the legitimate and pressing business of the Church should have been put aside for any cause, that we could have wished that there were at command some other method of disposing of such a case as that of Mr. Macdonnell. It is, so we understand, the practice with the Presbyterian Church in the United States to appoint Judicial Commissions for the settlement of appeals. While such a method of exercising justice is very objectionable on many grounds, yet had there been some way of considering Mr. Macdonnell's case that would have conserved the interests of all parties, and not have encroached upon the valuable time of the Assembly, the business of the Church would certainly have benefited by it. It is, without doubt, the feeling of many in view of the proceedings connected with this matter, that were many more such cases to arise, that involved questions as to the Confession of Faith, it would be better to have their consideration separated from all the other matters coming before a General Assembly. It is only in the hope that such another case may never again be heard in connection with the Presbyterian Church, or that such cases will be few and far between, that we think there is no need for special legislation in the direction of Judicial Commissions or otherwise. We repeat that were there a likelihood of any number of such cases arising, the Presbyterian Church would greatly suffer by the time of the Courts being frittered away in exciting discussion.

For it must be observed that great injustice was done to the real business for which this Assembly was convened. It was, as has frequently been said, an Assembly of the whole Church, and not a merely representative body. But when the Macdonnell case was at length brought to a close, the majority of members had to leave for their homes. In fact, it was felt that with the representation that was left, many matters of vital interest affecting the Constitution and Working power of the Church, had to be left over to the next General Assembly. While, in the circumstances, the very best was done to carry out the instructions of the Union Assembly of last year in regard to the consolidation of the united Church, to forms of procedure, to representation, and other important matters; yet it was felt that too little time was left at the disposal of the Assembly for the full consideration of these and kindred questions. We could have wished that more time could have been devoted to the subject of Foreign Missions. The evening, during which this subject came up, was a most pleasant and profitable one. The various reports submitted were all that could be wished, except in their references to financial difficulties. The address of Alex. N. Somerville was well

worth listening to, and called forth many well deserved plaudits; while the speeches of several missionaries were exceedingly interesting and instructive. We felt that evening that this was the proper work of the Assembly, and our only regret was that time prevented discussion upon the great subject of Foreign Missions, and such a discussion as was needed in view of the debt resting upon the Foreign Mission Board, and in the light of recent developments in regard to Foreign Mission work. It was with sorrow we noticed that as compared with the relative importance of this subject, the audience on the occasion, though perhaps the largest outside of the audiences connected with the Macdonnell case, was both small and meagre. Fortunately the report of Home Missions was given before the Assembly came to their "great case." What the work of the Church consists of, was then seen to advantage. The Home Mission work was felt to be pioneer work in regard to the future of this Dominion. By such work we are making sure that this country shall continue to be one of the kingdoms of our Lord. By it we are successfully laying foundations upon which generations yet unborn shall build. The General Assembly, indeed, cannot devote too much time to the consideration of such subjects as the above.

It was pleasing to observe the attention that was given to Theological Institutions. There is much difference of opinion as to whether there are not too many of these connected with the Presbyterian Church in Canada. On the one hand it is felt to be difficult to maintain so many colleges, and to have them fully and thoroughly equipped; while, on the other, it is regarded as an advantage to have a variety of schools in which our ministers shall be trained. Of course much can be said for the consolidation of our colleges on the one hand, and also for their maintenance as they now stand. The one great practical question in regard to them as well as to all other departments of the church's work is—money. Were there plenty of the filthy lucre, we would have no very great difficulty as to the question of a number and variety of Theological Schools. But it comes to be a very important question when the work of the church in every department is suffering by reason of want, whether it is wise to spread Theological Training over a great area, and have a number of colleges weak financially, when we might have sufficient for the purpose made strong by being freed from debt. We were pleased, however, with the disposition of the report of the Manitoba College. The professors fairly gained the confidence of the church in their institution. The committee appointed to consider Manitoba College went thoroughly to work, and afterwards reported favourably upon the whole matter submitted to them. And we cannot doubt that, having passed satisfactory through the ordeal of such an investigation, there is a great future for the college of Manitoba.

The limited time at the disposal of the General Assembly compelled rapid action in regard to many important matters. Thus, the report of the Committee on Sabbath-schools was adopted *simpliciter*, the recommendations with which it closed only being read. The chairman of the committee on Sabbath Observance very justly complained that his report was put off from time to time, as if it were a matter of no importance, when it had really involved much labor and occupied considerable time on the part of the committee. This report was passed hurriedly during the later sittings of the Assembly, when there was hardly more than a quorum present. The subject of a Hymn-book was shelved for the present—perhaps to advantage, considering not only the variety of opinion entertained upon the matter, but also the necessarily great variety of practice in regard to it; for it must be borne in mind that each church has imported into the union its own theories and methods connected with Hymnology. Other important matters were disposed of in a similar manner. But with all these drawbacks we can now look to the General Assembly held in our city with much pride and satisfaction. It exhibited the spectacle of a united, earnest, faithful, and intelligent Church. And it gave large promise for the future. For if in one year the Presbyterian Church in Canada has maintained her unity so thoroughly in the presence of an exciting question, and if she can report so much work done in all her departments, then we say there is a future of still greater unity and strength, and progressiveness before her.

Mr. J. W. HARGH, of Fairfield, departed this life on Wednesday morning, the 17th of May, in the 70th year of his age. For years Mr. Hargh was an Elder in the Presbyterian congregation of North Augusta and Fairfield, and during the whole period of his office worked in harmony with the other members of Session for the glory of God and the good of souls. As he was able to do a good deal for the cause of Christ, financially speaking, and as the congregation is weak, he will be very much missed. But our loss is his great gain, for we have good reason to believe that if God has removed him from the Church militant, He has taken him to the Church triumphant. He has left a young wife to mourn his loss. —Cox.

### Ministers and Churches.

We understand that a call is to be extended to the Rev. J. Scrimger, M.A., of St. Joseph Street Church, Montreal, by the Congregation of Old St. Andrew's, in this city.

The Kirkfield and Victoriaville congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Canada are about extending a call to the Rev. J. D. Murray, of Baie-Comeau, New Brunswick, who preached here on Sabbath last.

The Rev. Principal Snodgrass, D.D., of Queen's University, Kingston, preached in Zion Church, Brantford, last Sabbath forenoon. Dr. Snodgrass took part in the exercises connected with the Ladies College on Monday and Tuesday evenings.

REV. A. R. KENNEDY, late pastor of the Unitarian Church, in this city, who recently made application to be admitted to the Presbyterian Church Ministry, has withdrawn his application, stating that he wishes to attend Knox College one session.

REV. PROFESSOR McLAREN, of Knox College, has been presented with a handsome silk gown, by several Presbyterian ministers who were graduates of that College, Professor McLaren being the first graduate of Knox College appointed to a professorship there.

The new Presbyterian Church at Brucefield is being pushed forward rapidly. The walls are already well advanced. Judging from present appearances, when completed, it will be a most imposing edifice, and will be a credit to the taste and generosity of the congregation.

On Monday evening last, being the evening preceding the departure of the Rev. Mr. Crombie to Britain, the congregation held a social at the Manse, in order to take leave for a time of their pastor. Before the close they presented him with a purse of \$174. The presentation was made by A. Clark, Esq., accompanied by a few appropriate remarks. Mr. Crombie replied in suitable terms.

The Rev. Mr. Hodnett's friends improved his absence at the General Assembly to some purpose. On his return home on Tuesday evening, 20th inst., Mr. James Gray and Dr. R. A. Corbett, on behalf of the congregations of Perrytown and Oakhill, in a few well chosen words presented him with a valuable horse. Mr. Hodnett is a favourite with his people, and they certainly take a practical way of showing their esteem.

The Woodstock Times says: "Rev. Dr. P. G. McGregor, of Halifax, N.S., delivered two admirable discourses last Sabbath, in Knox Church, to large audiences. Dr. McGregor is a leading man in the Church of the Lower Provinces. For many years he was pastor of the largest and most influential congregation of that Church in Halifax, and now occupies the position of General Agent of the Presbyterian Church in Canada in the Maritime Provinces. He bears an honoured name, his father having been one of two or three noble men who first preached the Gospel, and planted the Presbyterian Church in those provinces. An interchange of visits between the pastors of churches on the seaboard and the interior would tend to the consolidation and pleasant working of the union of the Presbyterian Church which has been so happily consummated."

On Saturday afternoon the house of Rev. D. Anderson, Rothsay, was taken possession of by successive arrivals of ladies with baskets on their arms, in some cases they were accompanied by their husbands. The object of the gathering soon became apparent. It was none other than a surprise party. Suffice it to say, then, that after the minister had been summoned down from his study, he and the members of his family then at home, had to sit down with the company thus gathered to a cheerful and happy tea. After all had thus partaken of "the cup which cheers but not inebriates," the minister had to stand up whilst Mr. Robert Watt, Teviotdale, one of the deacons, read a short but pithy address, which culminated in Mr. Hugh Montgomery, another of the deacons, presenting Mr. Anderson with a purse containing \$54.00. To the address Mr. Anderson replied by contrasting the condition of the congregation and surrounding country twelve years ago, when he first came among them, with what they were now; and concluded by cordially thanking the friends assembled, and the congregation, for the kindly feelings expressed both towards himself and family; and also by intimating his belief that such gatherings, and such gifts, tended to good both as regards givers and receiver. —Cox.

RECENTLY a deputation of the Guelph Presbytery, consisting of Dr. Hogg, Messrs. Torrance, Davidson, and McDonald, with Mr. J. B. Mullen, visited, according to appointment, the Congregations of Chalmers' Church, Winterbourne, and St. Andrew's Church, both of which are vacant, for the purpose of ascertaining if they could not be united either for present supply of preaching, or into one Congregation to constitute

one pastorate, when they should feel themselves ready to call a minister. The deputation met with the Congregation of Chalmers' Church in the forenoon, and succeeded in procuring a resolution expressive of the conditions on which they were disposed to enter into union with the other Congregation. In the afternoon they met with that of St. Andrew's Church, and procured a resolution from them declarative of the terms on which they were disposed to unite with the sister Congregation. The deputation immediately afterwards met in Chalmers' Church, to which they were accompanied by almost all that had assembled in St. Andrew's Church, with the Congregation there, and the resolutions adopted by each were discussed. Ultimately it was agreed to proceed to union and to petition the Presbytery to consummate it on the following conditions:—"That the property of both Congregations belong to the united Congregations; that each bear its share of the expenses of supporting ordinances, and that the people of Chalmers' Church discharge two hundred dollars of the debt, amounting in all to four hundred, at present resting upon their property, Mr. Sawers, the student who is labouring there now, having nobly come forward and said that he would resume the responsibility of raising the other two hundred. We have no doubt but Mr. Sawers will have the sympathy and co-operation of many in carrying out this offer. We would congratulate the congregations upon the decision to which they have thus come, for we believe it is in the interests of religion in that neighbourhood.

The ladies of the Presbyterian congregation, Tiverton, being anxious to manifest their appreciation of his constant labours among them, and devoted attention to their spiritual and social interests, resolved to gratify their wishes by pleasantly surprising him. On Friday evening, the 16th inst., just on his arrival from the meeting of the General Assembly in Toronto, his friends poured into the manse from every quarter of the congregation till every room was crowded, bringing with them baskets filled with an abundance of refreshments. The surprise could not have been more complete. A very touching and kind address was then read on their behalf by Mr. Angus McKay, teacher, when Miss Kate McKenzie put into the hand of their minister a large purse chock-full of money, and Miss Kate Paterson handed him a large and handsome bouquet. Mr. Anderson replied briefly, and as suitably as could be expected in the affecting circumstances in which he was placed. The baskets were then produced, and all heartily regaled themselves with their contents, after which little groups of friends could be seen enjoying themselves according to their own inclination. After having some music and singing, worship was conducted and the party dispersed with the pleasant feeling that their surprise was a success, and that an opportunity was afforded them of showing their pastor that his services among them were not in vain in the Lord. The following is the address:—"To the Rev. J. Anderson, minister of the Presbyterian Church, Tiverton. Reverend and Dear Sir,—The high estimation in which you are held by the ladies of your congregation as their beloved pastor, and their sense of obligation to you for your untiring zeal and devoted attention to the spiritual and social welfare of your flock since you became their pastor,—and more especially during the past months of this year,—led us to assemble on this occasion, as representatives of the many friends desirous to congratulate you on your safe return, as well as to manifest in some tangible manner our united appreciation of your valuable services, as a true ambassador of Christ. That your labours have been owned and blessed by the Divine Spirit in leading and directing many souls to rest upon the finished work of our blessed Redeemer, we doubt not; and we believe that your reward will be infinitely beyond our present comprehension. The undersigned in conjunction with your many friends ask you to receive these few words as an expression of good will; and please accept this purse as a small token of true gratitude, and a sincere desire for your best interest. We trust you may be spared for many years to go in and out among us, to direct and counsel us. May now the Lord abundantly bless you and your partner in life, together with the other members of your family; and when your career is ended, and our pilgrimage in this life is over, may you and we be enabled to say, that we have fought a good fight, that we have finished our course, that we have kept the faith; and may we be finally received into those mansions, which are not made with hands eternal in the heavens, and join the heavenly host singing "Praise to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill towards men." Yours respectfully, on behalf of the ladies of the congregation of Tiverton, Mrs. Reid, Miss McKenzie, Miss Paterson, Miss McKenzie, Miss McLean, Miss Clogg, Miss Watson, Miss McFadyen, Miss McCallum. Tiverton, Ont., June 16th, 1876.